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*AMSAT *News Service*ANS-063*
March 3, 2024

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The AMSAT News Service bulletins are a free, weekly news and information service of AMSAT, The Radio Amateur Satellite Corporation. ANS publishes news related to Amateur Radio in Space including reports on the activities of a worldwide group of Amateur Radio operators who share an active interest in designing, building, launching and communicating through analog and digital Amateur Radio satellites.

The news feed on https://www.amsat.org publishes news of Amateur Radio in Space as soon as our volunteers can post it.

Please send any amateur satellite news or reports to: ans-editor [at] amsat.org

You can sign up for free e-mail delivery of the AMSAT News Service Bulletins via the ANS List; to join this list see: https://mailman.amsat.org/postorius/lists/ans.amsat.org/

ARISS 40th Anniversary Celebration Held at Kennedy Space Center

ARISS held their 40th Anniversary Celebration of the Positive Impact of Amateur Radio on Human Spaceflight at Kennedy Space Center on February 22-24.

Highlights of the event included a surprise live telebridge contact with the ISS via K6DUE where students present at the conference were able to ask questions of Astronauts Loral O'Hara and Jasmin Moghbeli aboard the ISS.

It was also announced that the repaired HamTV module will launch on the SpaceX-30 resupply mission, scheduled for launch on March 12th. HamTV sends a 2.3 GHz amateur television video signal from the ISS to support student contacts and other projects.

Discussions were held regarding the Amateur Radio Exploration (AREx) initiative with plans for amateur radio aboard Lunar Gateway. Teams are currently working with spectrum planners for frequencies between 2.4 and 10.5 GHz and the CAVIAR prototype on-station radio was demonstrated.

Lou McFadin, W5DID, received a special achievement award. Lou has been active in amateur radio in human spaceflight since STS-9.

The keynote speaker for the weekend was Richard Garriott, W5KWQ. His conference keynote was a retrospective of his father's amateur radio efforts entitled "Owen Garriott, W5LFL, Ham Radio Pioneer" and he also

delieved a banquet keynote entitled "Exploration Endeavors in Space: Experiences and Leadership as a Private Astronaut and in Space Communication in LEO, to the Moon and Beyond."

Stay tuned to ANS for further reports from this event.

[ANS thanks ARISS for the above information]

AMSAT-Francophone Hosts 7th Amateur Radio Space Meeting (RSR) March 16th and 17th

The *AMSAT-Francophone* is organizing the* seventh Amateur Radio Space Meeting (RSR)* on *March 16 and 17, 2024* in Nanterre. This event, held within the framework of its general assembly, aims to bring together both amateur radio satellite users and the designers of these satellites (whether they are amateurs, students, or academics). The goal is to share and exchange ideas about their passion and projects.

Here are the formats of activities that will be offered during these two days:

- Conferences: These will last between 20 to 30 minutes.
- Working sessions on predefined topics.
- Unconference, where you get to define the topic.

Admission to the conferences is free, and on-site catering will be available for your convenience.

In addition, here are some additional details:

- More than 20 conferences will be part of the program.
- Participatory moments will take place (in a Grid format).
- Over 17 speakers will share their knowledge and experiences.
- The conferences will be broadcast on QO100 and Twitch
- All conference are in French

For more information, you can visit the AMSAT-Francophone website (AMSAT Francophone | L'activité radioamateur par satellite (amsat-f.org) <https://site.amsat-f.org/>)

[ANS thanks AMSAT-Francophone for the above information]

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*The 2024 Coins Are Here Now!Help Support GOLF and Fox Plus.**Join <https://www.amsat.org/join-the-amsat-presidents-club/> the AMSAT President’s Club today!*

VUCC & DXCC Satellite Standing as of March 1, 2024VUCC Satellite Award/Endorsement Change Summary
February 01, 2024 to March 01, 2024

Call	*1-Feb*	*1-Mar*
WC7V	1457	1550
AA5PK	1426	1450
N8RO	1423	1444
DF2ET	1200	1300
MI6GTY	970	1201
N0JE	1100	1175
KF7R	1100	1128
F4BKV	1000	1100
VE6WQ	814	1007
YO2CMI	820	1003
WI7P	882	975
N8JCM	917	952

JK2XXK	503	903
EA2AA	883	892
KQ4DO	853	880
KK4YEL	674	728
N8MR	675	684
JG6CDH	605	677
VE7PTN	301	635
IK3ITB	500	604
LA6OP	458	600
N7ZO	501	600
N3CAL	525	580
DL6KBG	500	550
VE4MM	536	550
WB7QXU	500	550
HP2VX	496	500
I3BUI	New	500
JA1GZK	435	500
F6EQD	311	420
PA7RA	300	408
ZS2BK	305	405
KH6WI	300	400
N6PAZ	369	386
JI5USJ	301	355
LA9KY	New	347
K6VHF	276	300
K7OGW	New	300
DL5KUA	128	266
KB9DAK	171	255
JF3MKC	200	250
BX1AD	New	237
KB2MFS	New	215
PU5DDC	200	213
N2WLS	104	205
W6CZ	103	200
WD9EWK (DM42)	183	189
7J1ADJ	New	164
KJ7SXR	New	151
N4UFO	New	150
BD8CBU	New	132
KA9CFD	New	126
HB9BIN	New	119
BI1QGX	New	102
N2YZH	New	101
AA0K	New	100
AG1A	New	100
LZ3SV	New	100
VK5DG	New	100

Congratulations to the new VUCC holders!

LZ3SV is first VUCC Satellite holder from Bulgaria and KN21
BX1AD is first VUCC Satellite holder from Taiwan and PL04
KJ7SXR is first VUCC Satellite holder from CN86
HB9BIN is first VUCC Satellite holder from JN37
LA9KY is first VUCC Satellite holder from JP65
BI1QGX is first VUCC Satellite holder from ON80
7J1ADJ is first VUCC Satellite holder from PL36
VK5DG is first VUCC Satellite holder from QF02

DXCC Satellite Award/Endorsement Change Summary
February 01, 2024 to March 01, 2024

Call	*1-Feb*	*1-Mar*
OE9DGV	210	212
SM3NRY	171	174
G4WFQ	143	173

RA3S	101	161
YO2KHK	151	156
OZ9AAR	151	153
DK9JC	100	152
ZS4TX	128	152
UX0FF	135	147
YO2RR	138	142
F6AOJ	129	139
SP3AU	137	138
PA7RA	113	133
IK5CBE	New	131
IW7DOL	122	127
K8DP	122	125
XE1MEX	115	122
FG8OJ	114	116
LA0FA	109	112
UW7LL	New	107
NS3L	100	104
EA5RM	101	103
DL5KUA	New	101
AC9O	New	100

Congratulations to the new DXCC Satellite holders!

IK5CBE is first DXCC Satellite holder from JN53
DL5KUA is first DXCC Satellite holder from JO53

[ANS thanks Jon Goering, N7AZ, for the above information]

Changes to AMSAT-NA TLE Distribution for March 1, 2024

Two Line Elements or TLEs, often referred to as Keplerian elements or keps in the amateur community, are the inputs to the SGP4 standard mathematical model of spacecraft orbits used by most amateur tracking programs. Weekly updates are completely adequate for most amateur satellites. TLE bulletin files are updated Thursday evenings around 2300 UTC, or more frequently if new high interest satellites are launched. More information may be found at https://www.amsat.org/keplerian-elements-resources/

The following satellite has been removed from this week's AMSAT-NA TLE distribution:

IT-SPINS NORAD Cat ID 49017 Decayed from orbit on or about 25 February 2024

[ANS thanks Joe Fitzgerald, KM1P, AMSAT Orbital Elements Manager, for the above information]

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*Need new satellite antennas? Purchase an M2 LEO-Pack from the **AMSAT Store! <https://amsat.org/product-category/hardware/>**When you purchase through **AMSAT, a portion of the proceeds goes towards **Keeping Amateur Radio in Space.*

ARISS News

Amateurs and others around the world may listen in on contacts between amateurs operating in schools and allowing students to interact with astronauts and cosmonauts aboard the International Space Station. The downlink frequency on which to listen is 145.800 MHz worldwide.

“IES Pedro Simón” Abril High School, Alcaraz, Spain, telebridge via K6DUE

The ISS callsign is presently scheduled to be NA1SS

The scheduled crewmember is Loral O’Hara KI5TOM
The ARISS mentor is IKØUSO

Contact is go for: Mon 2024-03-04 11:21:02 UTC 70 deg
Watch for Livestream at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9Xgk4YZT5w4

As always, if there is an EVA, a docking, or an undocking; the ARISS radios are turned off as part of the safety protocol.

The crossband repeater continues to be active (145.990 MHz up {PL 67} & 437.800 MHz down), If any crewmember is so inclined, all they have to do is pick up the microphone, raise the volume up, and talk on the crossband repeater. So give a listen, you just never know.

Note, all times are approximate. It is recommended that you do your own orbital prediction or start listening about 10 minutes before the listed time.

The latest information on the operation mode can be found at https://www.ariss.org/current-status-of-iss-stations.html

The latest list of frequencies in use can be found at https://www.ariss.org/contact-the-iss.html

[ANS thanks Charlie Sufana, AJ9N, one of the ARISS operation team mentors for the above information]

Upcoming Satellite OperationsQuick Hits:

From…me! (K5ZM) I’ll be heading back to SGU for some sorely needed R & R and will be there from *Saturday, 2 Mar* through *Saturday, 9 Mar* and leaving on the morning of the 10th. Rove-wise, the main objectives are reactivations of the *DM46/DM47 & DM56/DM57 gridlines*, plus a trip just a bit farther south for the *DM44/DM45 gridline* -that will be new /r for me. Given the windshield time involved, I’m thinking these will take the form of a Mon/Wed/Fri scenario, but that’s not set in stone. I don’t necessarily care about the order in which I do them. Let me know your thoughts. I’ll probably hit DM36 (and of course DM37) and maybe another grid or two in between.
Major Roves:

NOIRMOUTIER ISLAND SAT DXPEDITION 2024

F4DXV Jérôme (@F4DXV <https://twitter.com/f4dxv>) and *EA4NF* Philippe (@EA4NF_SAT <https://twitter.com/ea4nf_sat>) announce that they will be actívating Noirmoutier island EU-064 IN86 from April 1 to 4, 2024 with the special callsign *TM4J*
In an exciting initiative, Jérôme F4DXV and Philippe EA4NF are preparing for an exceptional expedition to the island of Noirmoutier from 1 to 4 April 2024. Bearing the special call sign TM4J, this experienced team will devote themselves entirely to exploring satellite possibilities, offering a unique opportunity to radio enthusiasts the world over.

This international expedition will focus entirely on the LEO, GEO (QO-100) and MEO (GREENCUBE IO-117) satellites, with a variety of modes and operators. Jérôme and Philippe, experts in the field of portable satellite communications, will provide 24-hour coverage over several days, offering an unrivalled experience from this picturesque island in the Vendée.

This International DXpedition is the 1st 100% SAT from this French island.
Jérôme F4DXV:

120 DXCC LEO SAT
6 international DX expeditions by satellite
24 world distance records on LEO SAT

Philippe EA4NF:

126 DXCC LEO SAT
16 international DX expeditions by satellite
1 world distance record on LEO SAT

Captivating videos of their performances are available on YouTube, offering a glimpse of their expertise in amateur satellite communications in portable situations.

The main objective of this expedition is to maximise contacts with various countries during the 3-day activation, while offering operators around the world the rare opportunity to contact the highly coveted IN86 grid, in addition to accumulating DXCC and IOTA contacts.

Funded entirely by the two operators, the expedition will benefit from state-of-the-art technical resources, enabling uninterrupted activity 24 hours a day.

This initiative also aims to raise awareness of amateur radio among the general public, by highlighting satellite communication both to visitors on site and through the media.

Jérôme and Philippe will be happy to answer any questions you may have about amateur radio communication via satellite.

Some picture are available on : Expédition Satellite sur l’Île de Noirmoutier en 2024 | AMSAT Francophone (amsat-f.org) <https://site.amsat-f.org/2024/02/29/expedition-satellite-sur-lile-de-noirmoutier-en-2024/>

Updates available on @TM4J_SAT <https://twitter.com/tm4j_sat>

[ANS thanks Ian Parsons, K5ZM, AMSAT Rover Page Manager, for the above information]

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* Want to fly the colors on your own grid expedition?*
Get an AMSAT car flag and other neat stuff from our Zazzle store <https://www.zazzle.com/store/amsat_gear>!
25% of the purchase price of each product goes towards Keeping Amateur Radio in Space

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Hamfests, Conventions, Maker Faires, and Other Events

AMSAT Ambassadors provide presentations, demonstrate communicating through amateur satellites, and host information tables at club meetings, hamfests, conventions, maker faires, and other events.

AMSAT Ambassador Clint Bradford, K6LCS, says,

"Think a 75-minute presentation on "working the easy satellites" would be appropriate for your club or event? Let me know by emailing me at k6lcsclint (at) gmail (dot) com or calling me at 909-999-SATS (7287)!"

Clint has NEVER given the exact same show twice: EACH of the 150+ presentations so far has been customized/tailored to their audiences.
Scheduled Events

2024 CubeSat Developer’s Workshop
April 23-25, 2024

San Luis Obispo, CA
https://www.cubesatdw.org/

Dayton Hamvention 2024
Friday May 17th through Sunday May 19th, 2024
Greene County Fairgrounds and Expo Center
120 Fairground Road
Xenia, OH 45385
https://hamvention.org

[ANS thanks Clint Bradford, K6LCS, and AMSAT for the above information]

Satellite Shorts from All Over

+ Longtime satellite operator and AMSAT member George Carr, WA5KBH, became a silent key on Sunday, February 25, 2024. His obituary can be found at https://www.johnsonfuneralhome.net/obits/deacon-george-k-carr-ii/. George was a frequent and friendly presence on amateur satellites for many years. AMSAT extends our condolences to George's family and friends.

+ Bob Heil, K9EID, became a silent key this past week after a battle with cancer. From the Heil Facebook page:

* "Our beloved founder, Dr. Bob Heil, K9EID, is now a Silent Key. Bob fought a valiant, year-long battle with cancer, and passed peacefully surrounded by his family. Bob’s lifelong passion for amateur radio was clear to everyone involved in the hobby. Everything Bob did for the betterment and growth of amateur radio - from his instructional handbooks and countless presentations to his support of the ARRL and youth programs - was based on the foundation and spirit of service. Bob was an Elmer to all of us. While Bob’s presence will dearly be missed, his impact on the hobby and everyone in it will forever be felt. On behalf of Bob to all ham radio operators worldwide, 73."*

Dr. Heil was a longtime friend of AMSAT and we extend our condolences to his family and friends.

(ANS thanks Heil for the above information.)

+ After spending over a decade on a mission in space, a defunct 5,000 pound satellite returned to Earth on Feb. 21, splashing down in the Pacific Ocean somewhere between Alaska and Hawaii. After tracking the dead satellite for most of the day, the European Space Agency confirmed the satellite had returned to earth by about 19:30 UTC. ERS-2 launched in 1995 and was initially planned to serve the ESA for three years. However, it remained in operation until 2011, providing data for over 5,000 projects, including tracking Earth's shrinking polar ice, sea levels and atmospheric make-up. The majority of the 2.5 ton satellite disintegrated in Earth's atmosphere, though remaining debris likely landed in the north Pacific. (ANS thanks USA Today for the above information.)

+ The International Space Station (ISS) took more than a quarter-century, 42 space launches, and $150 billion to build. Voyager Space is cooperating with multiple companies and space agencies, including Europe's Airbus, American defense contractor Northrop Grumman, and -- intriguingly -- Hilton Hotels, to build a "Starlab" commercial space station to replace the aging ISS. On Jan. 31, the Starlab space station team announced that it had hired SpaceX to launch its entire Starlab space station to Low Earth Orbit "in a single mission prior to the decommissioning of the International Space Station." SpaceX will use its new Starship megarocket for this mission. Furthermore, "Starlab will ... be fully outfitted on the ground, and ready to permanently host four crew members in LEO to conduct microgravity research and advanced scientific discovery," say the companies. (ANS thanks Yahoo! Finance and the Motley Fool for the above information.)

+ India has unveiled four Air Force pilots who have been shortlisted to travel on the country's maiden space flight scheduled for next year. The Gaganyaan mission aims to send three astronauts to an orbit of 400km and bring them back after three days. India's space agency, ISRO, has been carrying out a number of tests to prepare for the flight. The officers were introduced as Group Captain Prashanth Balakrishnan Nair, Group Captain Ajit Krishnan, Group Captain Angad Pratap and Wing Commander Shubhanshu Shukla. If it succeeds, India will become only the fourth country to send a human into space after the Soviet Union, the U.S. and China. (ANS thanks the BBC for the above information.)

+ SLIM, the wrong-side-up Japanese lander, which had been hibernating through the two-week-long, -130 °C lunar night and the following week of unfavorable illumination angles (due to its aforementioned tipsy state), has somewhat surprisingly responded to commands from JAXA. The mission was not originally designed to survive the frigid night time temperatures. However, in a bit of situational irony, the agency had to shut the lander down again almost immediately due to overheating of the communications equipment in the 100 °C+ lunar mid-day. (ANS thanks the Orbital Index for the above information.)

Join AMSAT today at https://launch.amsat.org/

In addition to regular membership, AMSAT offers membership to:

- Societies (a recognized group, clubs or organization).
- Primary and secondary school students are eligible for membership at one-half the standard yearly rate.
- Post-secondary school students enrolled in at least half time status shall be eligible for the student rate for a maximum of 6 post-secondary years in this status.
- Memberships are available for annual and lifetime terms.

Contact info [at] amsat.org for additional membership information.

73 and remember to help Keep Amateur Radio in Space!

This week's ANS Editor,

Paul Stoetzer, N8HM
n8hm [at] amsat.org <http://amsat.org>

ANS is a service of AMSAT, the Radio Amateur Satellite Corporation, 712 H Street NE, Suite 1653, Washington, DC 20002